

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An approach for managing forecast data involves the use of a hierarchical data model to manage forecast data. Forecast data is maintained for each user. User access to forecast data is determined based upon the relationship between users and the hierarchical data model.

- 5 Relationships between users and hierarchical data models are defined by user attributes that specify a user type, an assigned organization, a node assignment and primary and secondary forecasting depths for primary and secondary data hierarchies. Access to forecast data is provided by traversing a user's primary data hierarchy starting at the user's assigned node in the user's primary data hierarchy and proceeding to the relative forecasting depth with respect to the user's assigned node. Then the user's secondary data hierarchy is traversed to the absolute secondary forecasting depth. Users are generally permitted to change data only at their lowest level, as defined by the user's attributes, although some users may be given privileges to override forecast data at other levels. The data hierarchies and the user's attributes define a user's forecasting environment. The forecasting environment controls what forecast data may be accessed by the user and how the data may be accessed. A consensus mechanism is also provided for resolving conflicts or inconsistencies in forecast data.